



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office

P.O. Box 45155

Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

<http://www.blm.gov>



IN REPLY REFER TO:

3590

UTU-72699

(UT-923)

OCT 02 2006

CERTIFIED MAIL--Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Jim Lekas  
Lexco, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1198  
582 North Vernal Avenue  
Vernal, Utah 84078

Re: Mining Plan Modification Approval for changing pillar sizes between mine stopes, Federal Gilsonite Lease UTU-72699.

Dear Mr. Lekas:

### MINING PLAN MODIFICATION APPROVAL

**Background-** During a quarterly inspection on June 28, 2006, LEXCO requested that the pillar sizing be changed from 10 feet wide to 15 feet wide (deep) because of increasing ground pressures due to the depth of mining.

As stated in the inspection report for the June 28, 2006 inspection report the vein was starting to "pop" indicating that the wall pressures were increasing. By increasing the barrier pillar by 5 additional feet this should alleviate this problem.

**Approval-** BLM approves changing the barrier pillar size from 10 feet to 15 feet wide to help alleviate the concentrated wall pressures.

**NEPA -** There is no surface disturbance due to this action and therefore this action is Categorically Excluded (CX) under DM 518 chapter 11, paragraph F. (8) Approval of minor modifications to or minor variances from activities described in an approved underground or surface mine plan for leasable minerals. (e.g., change in mining sequence or timing.)

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING



**Bond**- There is no change in the bond amount.

**Ultimate Maximum Recovery (UMR)** - This change will ensure UMR of the gilsonite resource by making it possible to continue extracting the ore in the vein. This modification is in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 as amended.

For further information contact Mr. Stan Perkes, (801) 539-4036.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jeff McKenzie*

James F. Kohler  
Chief, Solid Minerals Branch

bcc: Central Files  
Vernal Field Office  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (Attn. Paul Baker) P.O. Box 145801, Salt Lake  
City, Utah, 84114-5801  
Mine Files - UTU-72699

72699 barrier pillare app 9 27-2006 SP-SA